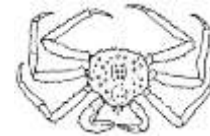

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Petersburg Area Office
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Date: June 13, 2013
Time: 9:30 a.m.

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA PERSONAL USE RED AND BLUE KING CRAB FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Petersburg...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced the following information regarding the opening of the 2013/2014 Southeast Alaska personal use red and blue king crab fishery outside of Section 11-A:

- **Port Frederick, Peril Strait, Seymour Canal, Lynn Sisters, and Excursion Inlet will remain closed.**
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2013, all areas open to personal use red and blue king crab fishing, outside of Sections 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C, will have a daily bag and possession limit of one red or blue king crab per day as prescribed in regulation when the regionwide harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is below 200,000 pounds [5 AAC 77.664(a)(1)].**
- **Beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2013, all areas open to personal use red and blue king crab fishing in Sections 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C will have a daily bag and possession limit of one red or blue king crab per day as prescribed in regulation when the regionwide harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is below 200,000 pounds [5 AAC 77.664(b)].**

Survey and Fishery Information

Because the 2013 Southeastern Alaska red king crab stock assessment survey is not complete, the department used 2012 stock assessment survey results to set bag and possession limits and determine open areas for the red and blue king crab personal use fishery outside of Section 11-A. 2012 survey results indicate the following:

- Regionwide harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is well below 200,000 pounds;
- Regionally, the biomass of mature male red king crab has been declining since 2001 and is currently at its lowest level in twenty-two years;
- Stock health in Seymour Canal remains poor;
- Stock health in Peril Strait, Port Frederick, Lynn Sisters, and Excursion Inlet has declined to poor;
- Stocks in Pybus Bay, Gambier Bay, and non-surveyed areas are capable of supporting a low level of personal use harvest.

Closed Area Descriptions

The personal use red and blue king crab fishery will not open in areas where stock health is poor. Areas that will remain closed until further notice are defined as follows (Figure 1):

1. Port Frederick: Port Frederick (all waters of Port Frederick south and west of a line between the light at Cannery Point to the northernmost tip of Halibut Island and from there to a point at 58°09.60' N. latitude, 135°30.00' W. longitude).
2. Seymour Canal: Section 11-D, Seymour Canal (waters of Seymour Canal north of 57°37.00' N. latitude).
3. Excursion Inlet: Excursion Inlet waters north of a line from Excursion Point at 58°22.50' N. latitude, 135°29.00' W. longitude, due east to a point at 58°22.50' N. latitude, 135°25.00' W. longitude.
4. Peril Strait: Section 13-C, Peril Strait (all waters of Peril Strait including Hoonah Sound, Ushk Bay, Rodman Bay, Saook Bay, Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and contiguous waters west of a line from Point Hayes to Point Thatcher, and north of a line from Pogibshi Point due west to the Chichagof shoreline).
5. Lynn Sisters: St. James Bay west of a line between Point Whidbey and a point at 58°33.00' N. latitude, 135°09.60' W. longitude.

Juneau Area: Section 11-A

Status of the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A is addressed in a separate news release. For more information on the red and blue king crab personal use fishery within Section 11-A please contact Dave Harris at (907) 465-4250.

Other information

Fishermen are reminded only male red king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell may be retained. For blue king crab, only males six and one-half inches or greater in width of shell may be retained. Male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

No more than 4 pots or 10 ring nets per vessel may be used in the personal use king crab fishery [5 AAC 77.664(f)]. A pot used to take king crab must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot that are not less than six and one-quarter inches inside diameter [5 AAC 77.664(f)]. Each fisherman shall plainly and legibly inscribe the fisherman's first initial, last name, and home address on a keg or buoy attached to a pot. A keg or buoy attached to the pot must also be inscribed with the vessel name or the division of motor vehicles registration number (AK number) of the vessel used to operate the pot [5 AAC 77.010(d)].

Please refer to 5 AAC 77.664 in the 2012-2013 Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fisheries Regulations booklet for additional regulations regarding personal use red and blue king crab fishing, or view the regulations online at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/Subsistence-PU-2012-2013.pdf>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1213.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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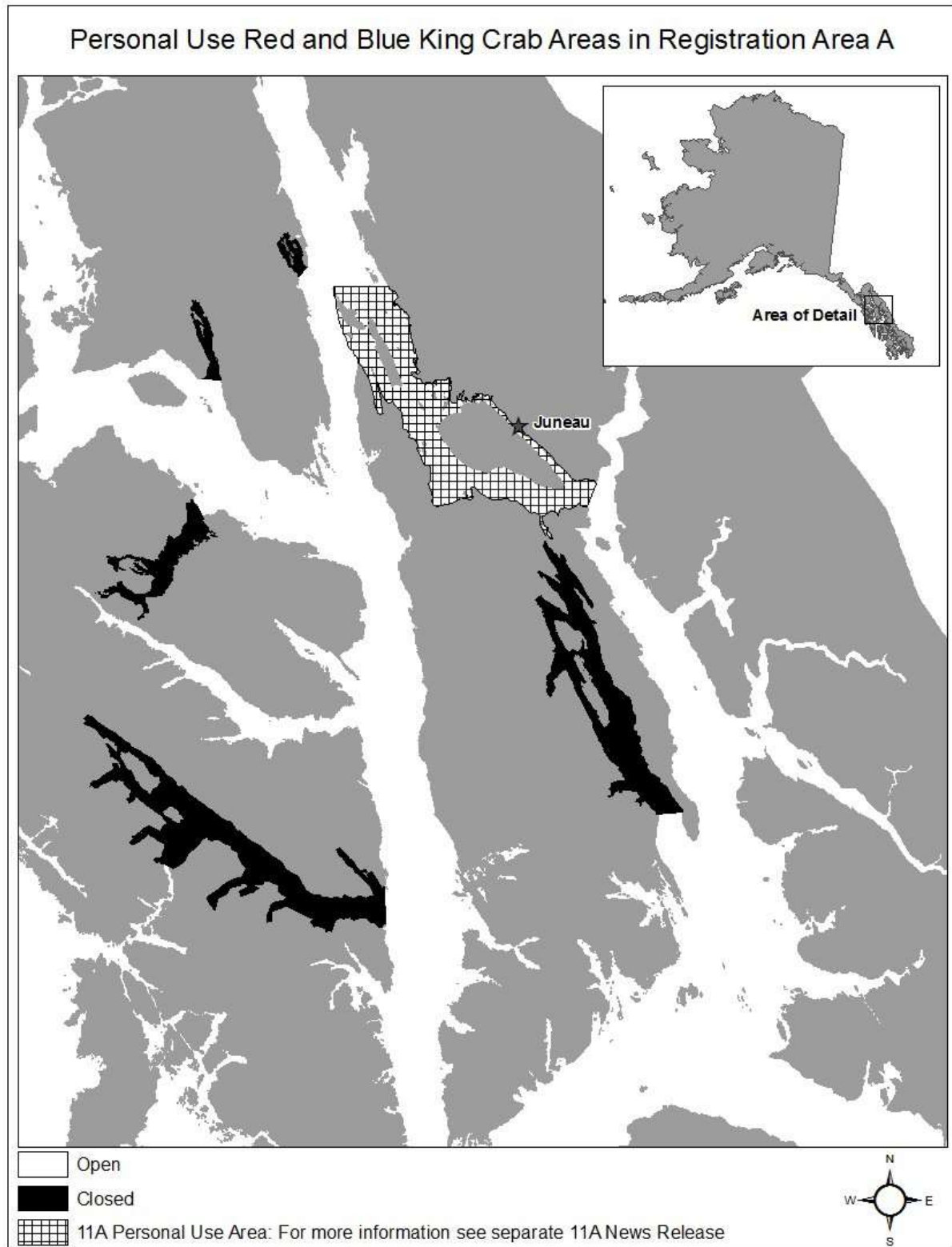


Figure 1. This map is for reference purposes only. Please refer to text in this news release for legal descriptions of management area boundaries and other details.